

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 108506

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, EFIN, US, LI

SUBJECT: LIBERIAN GOVERNMENT PREFERENCES FOR DOMESTIC FIRMS

REF: MONROVIA 2130

1. THERE IS NO LEGAL BASIS FOR US GOVERNMENT TO OBJECT TO PREFERENCES GOL HAS ACCORDED AIR LIBERIA. (SEE ARTICLE 3, US/LIBERIA TREATY ON AIR NAVIGATION GIVING US CARRIERS MFN BUT NOT NATIONAL TREATMENT - COPY BEING POUCHED.)

2. IF GOL GIVES ANY SIMILAR PREFERENCES TO LIBERIAN BANKS USG MIGHT BE ABLE CITE FCN TREATY IN PROTESTING. HOWEVER, GROUNDING STRONG LEGAL OBJECTION ON FCN WOULD HAVE TO BE TEMPERED BY FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS:

A) US LAW RESERVES FOR DOMESTIC FIRMS A HOST OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES, AND SIMILAR LEGISLATION IS COMMON WORLDWIDE.

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B) RIGID DEFENSE OF STATUS QUO IN FACE LIBERIAN DETERM-

INATION ENCOURAGE LOCAL FIRMS BY FORCING BUSINESS THEIR WAY
UNLIKELY BE SUCCESSFUL AND PROBABLY WOULD PROVOKE CHARGES
OF US INSENSITIVITY TO LIBERIAN DEVELOPMENT ASPIRATIONS.
(PROTECTION US BUSINESS INTERESTS ABROAD IS IMPORTANT US
GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY BUT ONE WHICH MUST TAKE INTO

ACCOUNT BOTH US DOMESTIC PRACTICE AND DESIRE LDCS FOR
GREATER ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE.)

3. DEPARTMENT NOT PREPARED ISSUE BLANKET INSTRUCTIONS
BUT WOULD PREFER RESPOND TO EACH SITUATION AS IT ARISES.
HOWEVER, AS GENERAL PRINCIPLE SUGGEST THAT IN YOUR CON-
VERSATIONS WITH GOL OFFICIALS ON THIS SUBJECT YOU
EMPHASIZE DESIRABILITY OF AVOIDING ACTION LIKELY WEAKEN
INVESTMENT CLIMATE.

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